



U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

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SMALLPOX COMPENSATION PROGRAM PASSES SENATE

Washington, DC-Legislation creating a smallpox compensation program for health care workers and first responders who volunteer to receive small pox vaccinations passed the United States Senate tonight. The legislation was introduced by Senator Judd Gregg and passed through the Senate HELP Committee chaired by Gregg last week.

“The bill we passed tonight is a generous package designed to give those first responders the level of comfort and confidence they need to proceed with the vaccination process. This is not a legal issue. This is not a health issue. This is a national security issue. We are at war. The passage of this legislation is vital to the safety of the American people and I’m pleased we’ve been able to pass it swiftly through Congress and can now send it to the President for his signature,” Senator Gregg said.

The Smallpox Compensation program does the following:

- Creates a “no fault” system to compensate eligible persons injured by the small pox vaccine.
- Covers any health care workers and emergency responders who volunteer to receive the smallpox vaccine as well as any people who may contract small pox through secondary infection.
- Allows the federal government to reimburse individuals for the cost of medical treatment incurred because of the small pox vaccine.
- In the rare event of death, the victim’s family would receive a \$262,100 lump-sum benefit payment. If there are any surviving children, then the family would have the option of receiving either the lump-sum or a \$50,000 annual death benefit payment until the children become 18 years of age.

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